



European
Commission

High Level Conference

A new start for

social dialogue



05.03.2015

Charlemagne Building: Rue de la Loi 170, Brussels

#EUSocDia

Social Europe

Final Agenda

▶08:00 Registration and welcome

▶09:00-10:30 Opening session: “Building a common approach to a new start for social dialogue”
[Room De Gasperi]

Opening address by the Commission: **Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis**

Introductory remarks by the European Parliament: **President Martin Schulz**

Introductory remarks by Council Presidency: **Minister of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia Uldis Augulis**

Introductory remarks by leaders of EU cross-industry social partners’ organisations:

- **Markus J. Beyrer**, Director General, BUSINESSEUROPE
- **Hans-Joachim Reck**, President, CEEP
- **Gunilla Almgren**, President, UEAPME
- **Bernadette Ségol**, General Secretary, ETUC

Moderator: **Ann Mettler**, Head of the European Political Strategy Centre, European Commission

Interpretation: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-PT-EL-DA-FI-SV-CS-ET-LV-LT-HU-PL-SK-SL-BG-RO-HR

▶10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

▶11:00-12:30 First series of thematic workshops

Workshop A: Improving social partners’ involvement in the European Semester

[Room De Gasperi]

The Commission encourages an increased involvement of the social partners in the design and implementation of policies decided at EU and national level. A better involvement of social partners at both EU and national level is not only crucial in addressing the economic and social challenges Europe faces; it will also help to strengthen national ownership and accountability.

Topics for discussion:

- How to use existing structures to better involve social partners at EU and national level?
- Deepening the Economic and Monetary Union

Introductory remarks by the Commission: **Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis**

Employers:

- **Ulrike Rabmer-Koller**, Vice-President, UEAPME and Vice-President, Wirtschaftskammer Oberösterreich (WKOÖ)
- **Peter Clever**, Member of the Executive Board, Confederation of German Employers (BDA)

Trade unions:

- **Klaus Beck**, Executive Secretary, German Trade Union Confederation (DGB)
- **Tadeusz Chwałka**, President, Forum Związków Zawodowych (FZZ)

Moderator: **Pia Ahrenkilde-Hansen**, Director for Representations in DG Communication, European Commission

Exchange of views

Interpretation: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-PT-EL-DA-FI-SV-CS-ET-LV-LT-HU-PL-SK-SL-BG-RO-HR

Workshop B: Strengthening industrial relations and capacity building at national level

[Room Jenkins]

Industrial relations have been affected by the crisis and need to be reinforced in several Member States. Besides the required political commitment to promote social dialogue, particular attention should be paid to ensure adequate resources and support for social capacity building activities, including through the use of EU funds. Well-functioning industrial relations in the Member States are a precondition to an effective social dialogue at national and European level.

Topics for discussion:

- Improving industrial relations for a well-functioning social dialogue
- Reinforcing capacity-building to boost social dialogue outcomes, including for better implementation of policies at national level

Introductory remarks by the Commission: **Commissioner Marianne Thyssen**

Employers:

- **António Saraiva**, President, Confederação Empresarial de Portugal
- **Holger Schwannecke**, Secretary General, German Confederation of Skilled Crafts and Small Business (ZDH)

Trade unions:

- **Patrick Itschert**, Deputy General Secretary, ETUC
- **Göran Arrius**, President, SACO

Moderator: **Jimmy Jamar**, Head of the Representation, European Commission in Belgium

Exchange of views

Interpretation: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-PL-PT-SV-DK-NL

Workshop C: The EU's macro-economic strategy and the need for investing in growth and quality jobs

[Room Mansholt]

The Commission's macro-economic strategy is based on fiscal responsibility, structural reforms, and investment. Europe faces huge investment gaps and needs viable projects to lift economic growth and open up more job opportunities. The Commission's Investment Plan for Europe will channel funding to credible projects, with a real added value for the European social market economy. Social partners and the Commission will exchange on how to get the most out of the Investment Plan for Europe in terms of growth and job creation.

Topics for discussion:

- Addressing macroeconomic challenges and finding the right policy mix
- Implementing the investment plan for Europe to foster job creation

Introductory remarks by the Commission: **Commissioner Pierre Moscovici**

Employers:

- **Danny McCoy**, Chief Executive Officer, Ibec
- **Milena Angelova**, General Secretary, Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association (BICA), Executive Vice-President, CEEP

Trade unions:

- **Antonio Ferrer**, Confederal Secretary, UGT
- **Penny Clarke**, Deputy General Secretary, EPSU Federation

Moderator: **Norman Jardine**, Head of Unit for Communication in DG Human Resources and Security, European Commission

Exchange of views

Interpretation: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-PL

▶12:30-14:00 **Lunch**

▶14:00-15:30 **Second series of thematic workshops**

Workshop D: Exploiting the full potential of the digital single market

[Room De Gasperi]

At a time when Europe faces high unemployment, companies across all industry sectors face a critical shortfall of talented ICT experts. This reveals a skills mismatch in today's fast developing technology market. Building upon the experience of the Grand Coalition for Digital jobs, measures will be identified to come to a genuine digital single market creating high-quality jobs.

Topics for discussion:

- Fostering job creation and skills development in the digital sector
- Enhancing social partners' involvement in EU digital agenda

Introductory remarks by the Commission: **Robert Madelin**, Director General, DG Connect

Employers:

- **Uwe Combüchen**, Director General, CEEMET
- **Filippo Brandolini**, President, Federambiente, Executive Vice-President, CEEP

Trade unions:

- **Ludger Ramme**, Deputy General Secretary, CEC
- **Oliver Röthig**, Regional Secretary, UNI-Europa Federation

*Moderator: **Pia Ahrenkilde-Hansen**, Director for Representations in DG Communication, European Commission*

Exchange of views

Interpretation: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-PT-EL-DA-FI-SV-CS-ET-LV-LT-HU-PL-SK-SL-BG-RO-HR

Workshop E: Social dialogue and better regulation

[Room Jenkins]

The Commission and the social partners should examine how better use their specific instruments and procedures to respond to an ever growing concern for better regulation. An enhanced evidence basis, a predictable regulatory framework and a clear focus on the economic and social priorities are key prerequisites in this regard.

Topics for discussion:

- Enhancing the evidence base for social partner negotiations
- Role of bipartite and tripartite social agreements

Introductory remarks by the Commission: **Commissioner Marianne Thyssen**

Employers:

- **José María Lacasa Aso**, Secretary General, Spanish Confederation of Employers Organisations (CEOE)
- **Tjitte Alkema**, General Secretary, HOSPEEM

Trade Unions:

- **Catelene Passchier**, Vice-President, FNV
- **Marie-Louise Knuppert**, Confederal Secretary, LO-DK

*Moderator: **Jimmy Jamar**, Head of the Representation, European Commission in Belgium*

Exchange of views

Interpretation: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-PL-PT-SV-DK-NL

Workshop F: Skills, education and training needs in anticipation of a changing working environment

[Room Mansholt]

In the context of demographic ageing new challenges and opportunities emerge, hence investing in education, training and skills, with a view to facilitate the transition education to labour market and tackle skills mismatch must be ensured. Social partners are the best placed to contribute to implement structural reforms at national level and to provide the right assessment on skills and labour market needs.

Topics for discussion:

- Investing in skills anticipation and work-based learning
- Modernising labour markets for more flexible and more secure working conditions

Introductory remarks by the Commission: **Commissioner Tibor Navracsics**

Employers:

- **Tom Beattie**, Leader of Corby Borough Council, Executive Vice-President, CEEP
- **Marcella Panucci**, Director General, Confindustria

Trade unions:

- **Marie-Hélène Ska**, Secretary General, CSC
- **Fausto Durante**, Head of Secretariat, Europe CGIL

Moderator: **Norman Jardine**, Head of Unit for Communication in DG Human Resources and Security, European Commission

Exchange of views

Interpretation: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-PL

▶ 15:30-16:00 **Coffee Break**

▶ 16:00-17:00 **Concluding session: 'A new start for Social dialogue: the way forward'**

[Room De Gasperi]

Final remarks by **Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis**

Final remarks by **Commissioner Marianne Thyssen**

Final remarks by the leaders of the EU cross-industry social partners' organisations

- **Bernadette Ségol**, Secretary General, ETUC
- **Peter Faross**, Secretary General, UEAPME
- **Valeria Ronzitti**, General Secretary, CEEP
- **Emma Marcegaglia**, President, BUSINESSEUROPE

Moderator: **Michel Servoz**, Director General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Closing address by **President Jean-Claude Juncker**

Interpretation: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-PT-EL-DA-FI-SV-CS-ET-LV-LT-HU-PL-SK-SL-BG-RO-HR

▶ 17:00 **End**

Join the debate!



#EUSocDia

Social Europe

www.ec.europa.eu/socialdialogue